

## REPORT

*Of the Committee on the Public Lands upon the subject of continuing in force the provisions of the "Act for the relief of the purchasers of public lands prior to the 1st July, 1820."*

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JANUARY 12, 1824.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the table.

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The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred a resolution of this House, of the 18th of December last, instructing them to inquire into the expediency of reviving and continuing in force the provisions of the act of Congress, entitled "An act for the relief of the purchasers of public lands prior to the 1st of July, 1820,"

### REPORT:

By the act of the 2d of March, 1821, purchasers were allowed until the 30th of September following to avail themselves of the law referred to in the resolution. From some delay in transmitting the necessary instructions to the several land offices, the limited time which was given to file the applications for the benefit of that law, and the remote situation of some of the claimants from the land offices where such applications were required to be filed, Congress, believing a revival of the act of 1821 expedient, passed the supplementary act of the 20th of April, 1822. That law gave all those who had not availed themselves of the provisions of the original act an opportunity to do so, at any time prior to the 30th of September, 1822. Notwithstanding this extension of time, it was discovered, from numerous petitions presented to Congress, at their last session, that a large class of cases existed, and which were necessary to be provided for, where individuals intended to have availed themselves of the benefit of those acts, but, from accident or misfortune, had been prevented from filing their applications in due time. For these cases, provision was made by the act of Congress of the 3d of April, 1823. Your committee believe that these laws have afforded a sufficient opportunity to all who were attentive to their own interests to have obtained the relief provided by them; and they have no information which would, in their opinion, justify recommending to Congress the expediency or propriety of reviving and continuing in force the provisions of the act referred to in the resolution. We, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That it is inexpedient, at this time, to revive and continue in force the provisions of the act of Congress, entitled "An act for the relief of the purchasers of the public lands prior to the 1st of July, 1820."

